

ON SOME BIRDS FROM THE CONGO REGION.

By ERNST HARTERT.

1. *Lophoceros granti* sp. nov.

AMONG some birds collected on the Aruwimi River by Mr. W. Bonny, of the notorious Rear-Column of Stanley's Emin Pasha Relief Expedition, I found a little Hornbill which did not agree with any description or figure, and which, on comparing it with its nearest ally, *Lophoceros hartlaubi* (Gould), in the British Museum, proved to belong to an undescribed species.

It may be diagnosed as follows :—

Lophoceros ex affinitate speciei *L. hartlaubi* dictae, eadem forma caudae et magnitudine, sed differt remigibus primaries et tectricibus alarum omnibus albamaculatis, maxilla pro maxima parte rubra.

Hab. Aruwimi River, Congo.

The undoubtedly perfectly adult bird has the maxilla deep red, except a streak towards the base along the cutting edge, which is blackish; the mandible blackish, deep red towards the tip. In *L. hartlaubi* the bill is blackish, and only the tip is crimson. Feathers of the head blackish, a greyish white superciliary stripe from the lores to the nape. Feathers of the neck blackish, edged with pale grey. Back, rump, and upper tail-coverts ashy black. Primaries black, the third to the sixth with a white spot on the outer web; the secondaries outwardly narrowly edged with white, and the last ones with a white spot near the tip of the outer web. Wing-coverts black, with a slight metallic gloss, spotted with white near the tips. Under wing-coverts dirty white, the bare bases of the shafts of the wing-quills white. Under parts ashy, dirty whitish along the middle and on the under tail-coverts. Tail black, the two outer pairs tipped with white, the third pair obsolete; shafts of rectrices blackish above, whitish below. The outer pair of rectrices is more than an inch shorter than the central pair, as is the case in *L. hartlaubi*, but in none of the other species of *Lophoceros*.

Total length about 15 inches: culmen, measured over the ridge, 2·5: bill, from gape to tip, 2·3; wing, 6·1; tail, 6·4; tarsus, 1.

Form of bill the same as in *L. hartlaubi*. In *L. hartlaubi* no white spots are present on the wing-coverts of the adult bird, and the young bird has some white tips to the greater coverts only, while the bill of such immature birds is uniform blackish.

I have named the bird in honour of Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant, who described the *Bucerotidae* in the *Cat. Birds B. M.*, vol. xvii.

L. hartlaubi (Gould) is only known from Liberia* and the Gold Coast. Reichenow, *Journ. f. Orn.*, 1877, p. 18 (not quoted in *Cat. B.*), quotes it from the Loango coast, but as his bird was a *pallus* there seems little doubt that it does not belong to the northern *L. hartlaubi*, but possibly to my new species.

This bird may be said to bear the same relation to *L. hartlaubi* as *L. jacksoni* Grant bears to *L. deckeni*.

* Büttikofer, *Notes Leyden Museum*, VI. (not IV., as quoted in *Cat. B.*, xvii.), p. 209 (1885).

2. *Onycognathus intermedius* sp. nov.

In May last the Tring Museum received some skins from the Congo which were collected by the Rev. F. G. Harrison, and among them was an *Onycognathus*, which stands in size midway between the two known species of the genus—i.e. *O. fulgidus* Hartl. and *O. hartlaubi* Gray. While the wings of *O. fulgidus* measure fully 6·4 inches, the tail 6·8, the culmen 1·5, and while the same measurements of *O. hartlaubi* (as given by Sharpe, *Cat. B.*, xiii., p. 166) are : wing, 4·6 : tail, 4·5 : culmen, 1·1, my specimen measures : wing, 5·3 : tail, 5·8 : culmen, 1·4 : tarsus, 1·1. In colour *O. hartlaubi* hardly differs perceptibly from *O. fulgidus*, nor does my *O. intermedius*, but the colour of the neck of the latter is somewhat more of the rather bluish purple of *O. hartlaubi*. Above and below the colour is a metallic glossy purple, the head and neck greenish bluish purple : the wing-quills are chestnut blackish towards the tip. The type-specimen is a *male*, and was shot at Lukolele on the Congo. The iris was scarlet. A second specimen, from Yambuia on the Aruwimi River, collected by the late Mr. J. S. Jameson, and recorded as *O. hartlaubi* by Captain Shelley in *Ibis*, 1890, p. 164, and in *Story of the Rear-Column*, p. 421, and in which the wing measures 5·1, the tail 5·5, would also belong to *O. intermedius*.

We should thus have the case of three species forming one genus all of which are distinguished in size only, but they really seem to belong to three different forms, though it is quite possible that additional materials from the adjoining countries may contain transitional forms, and that therefore *O. intermedius* would deserve subspecific rank rather than specific, and this I believe so much more as a specimen from the Niam-Niam country seems larger than *O. hartlaubi*, on an average.

Onycognathus fulgidus inhabits the island of St. Thomas,

O. hartlaubi is found along the West Coast to Niam-Niam, and

O. intermedius is a form of the Congo Basin.

3. *Chaetura cassini* Sel.

Two specimens of this rare Swift are among the birds from the Aruwimi River, from whence it was previously recorded by Shelley, *Ibis*, 1890, p. 168.

In comparing my description of this species in *Cat. B.*, xvi., p. 488, I am sorry to detect a very misleading error, probably a penslip or misprint, for instead of "sides of body and under TAIL-coverts blackish" it should be "sides of body and under WING-coverts blackish." Although the words standing just above, "remainder of under surface white," might suggest the error, it might easily cause misunderstandings.
